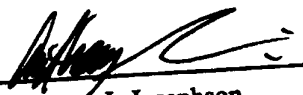


**REMARKS**

The Official Action dated July 2, 2002 has been carefully considered. The Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indicated allowability of claims 1-18. The Abstract has been replaced with a new Abstract having less than 150 words. The Applicants believe that the new Abstract does not introduce new matter. As an additional matter, an extension of time for one month is being filed herewith to extend the period for reply to October 2, 2002. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By:   
Anthony J. Josephson  
Registration No. 45,742

P. O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404  
(703) 836-6620

Date: September 30, 2002

RECEIVED  
OCT 02 2002  
TC 1700